

**NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting**  
**May 2, 2012 MINUTES**  
**Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria**

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Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Stephanie Lapham, Terrance Sack, John Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy  
Staff: Ruth Hoshino, Rush Ehrhart  
Guests: Tom Pomeroy, Deb Darcy (Juvenile Probation Officer),  
Students: Teekhon Davidoff, Sobel, Erin Katzeff, Sophie Veksler, Ethan Morgan, Adoran Moshe, Danielle Tibbetts

The meeting was opened at 7:07 PM and chaired by Joe DeVito  
A vote to accept the minutes of April 4, 2012 was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The budget for FY 2012 operating budget is \$2500. The expenses to date are for: E-Chug, Improbable Players, Intern meeting refreshments, Business card advertising for E-Chug, School newspaper advertisement for E-Chug, Portable hard drive. The current balance is \$548.24.

**Business:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Service Award –  
The past recipients are: Anthony Bibbo, Peter Harrington, Lowell Haynes, Judy Malone Neville, David Sellers Sr., Deb D'Arcy, Bussy Adams, Stephan Ross, and Larry Allen.  
Nominations for the award are:  
Pat Vello – principal at the high school Springboard program  
Kathy Davieau – former NSHS housemaster  
Tom Pomeroy – advisor to Mayor's Public Service Interns  
Chris Fortunato – Leader of Mayor's Public Service Interns  
Chris Fortunato is grateful to be nominated for this award. He feels he has a lot of work left to do with this group and respectfully asks that his name be removed for consideration.  
Paper ballots were distributed to the Youth Commission members. The tally revealed Kathy Davieau as having the most votes. Pending contact and acceptance from Kathy, she will be the award recipient for 2012.
- New Executive Administrator of Youth Services –  
Rush Ehrhart was introduced as the newly hired Executive Administrator of Youth Services from the Health and Human Services Department. This position will create a place for parents to learn about of all the services available to Newton youth and families. With a vision and a strategy of what needs to be accomplished and a way to do it, all families will be able to access resources to meet their needs.  
Rush is happy to have the opportunity to serve Newton (where he lives) in this way. He will spend his initial time getting to know people across the city who provide services to kids
- Mayor's Public Service Internship Program Update –
  - **Group Bonding:** The interns had a bonding recreational evening at Laser Quest (a laser tag game establishment) A fun time was had by all – a very nice group photo was passed around.
  - **Leadership:** On April 28th, 26 high school students (from North and South) attended a leadership institute at the Harvard Kennedy School of Public Service. The day included breakfast with the dean of students (Chris Fortunato), a tour of the school and viewing of the displayed artwork.

In small groups, Harvard students facilitated two sessions - one about public speaking in general and one about presenting public narratives. A public narrative is the telling of a provocative story in two minutes that is personal, reflects on everyone in the audience and concludes with an action step. The interns composed and presented narratives and accepted constructive criticism so they could improve. These are the “take away” messages and tips for success the interns learned:

- Assume a stance to reduce fidgeting – feet should be shoulder distance
- Time yourself so a beginning, middle and end are included
- Accept feedback – it identifies what to work on and how to improve
- Do not use filler words
- Speaking must be well structured
- Audience will consider “what’s in it for me”
- Within an audience, 60% focus on appearance and gestures, 30% focus on vocal tone, and 10% focus on content.

The students felt the leadership conference was well done and they enjoyed it. Chris Fortunato, who arranged and facilitated the conference, said he was “never prouder than to bring Newton students who bravely and ably took this on”.

Student Intern, Teekhon Davidoff presented his public narrative. Students and Youth Commission adults gave feedback that included:

- Genuine, real and relatable
- Good message, better presentation than previous time
- Captivating speaker, makes it better each time
- Flawless
- Incorporated previous suggestions
- Compelling right out of the gate
- Successful at not using filler words

- **Narrative Video Project:** The students will continue recording various teens speaking about important issues. Knowing this could evoke a wide range of feeling and reactions, NPS staff will be enlisted for support. After editing, there will be many 2 minute segments of teen voices to play at the fall 2012 Teen Summit. Incentives (water bottles or some small “give-away”) may be used to increase participation.
- **e-CHUG:** This is an interactive web survey that allows students to enter information about their drinking patterns and receive feedback about their use of alcohol. Advertising cards are being distributed at both high schools – so far, there have been 150 users of the survey.
- Recruitment is underway for the Governor’s Statewide Youth Council – student interns were encouraged to apply.
- It is planned that the student interns will meet with Mayor Warren and Superintendent Fleishman before the end of the school year.

Newton’s Teen Voice can be followed on twitter, tumbler and facebook.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

**The next meeting is the annual award dinner and will be on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 6:30 PM (pending confirmation from award recipient).**

**Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino**